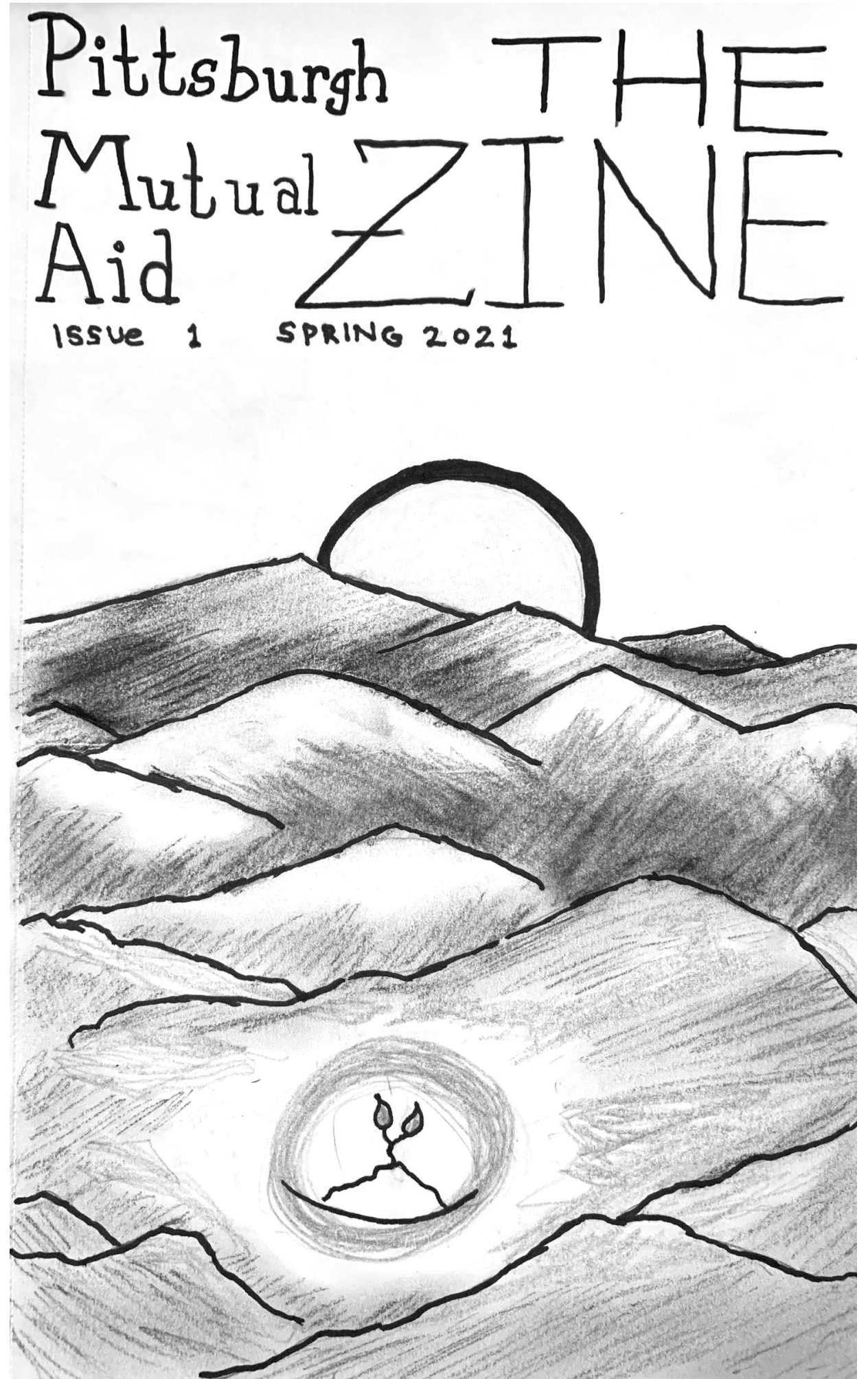




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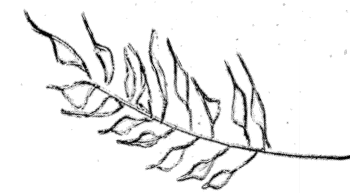
We Protect Us

In this especially dark era, we have become convinced of the importance of the collective when it comes to fighting for a better world. It's easy to imagine that our lives are completely separate from the lives of others, but the COVID-19 crisis has made it clear how hyper-connected we are. A threat to someone's health abroad is a threat to the health of a loved one at home. For this reason, it is essential that we take care of each other in order to keep ourselves safe.

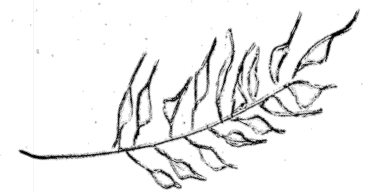
This sentiment might seem obvious to readers of our zine. But to the handful of people who control the majority of the world's wealth and resources, it might not ever sink in. Already, the global reserve of vaccine doses is being bought up and distributed by wealthier, more "developed" nations, while the remaining countries get pushed to the back of the line. What does this mean for the safety of people around the world? What will it mean for travel, for trade, for the virus's potential to grow resistant to vaccination?

Not only do we risk our safety when we ignore the hardships of people outside our bubbles, we also risk an essential part of what it means to exist in the world together. We're no longer part of a rich, complex ecosystem. Instead, we become a one-crop field. We overwork our soil, we die off more quickly, and we rely on outside forces to keep us alive in the meantime. These "outside forces" might look like a \$7.25 minimum wage, or food stamps that are impossible to qualify for, or rent relief that reaches roughly one third of its applicants. When we rely on out-of-touch CEOs and senators to sustain us, we sell ourselves short. We sacrifice our autonomy and our chance to live vibrant lives.

So how can we forge connection and warmth beyond our so-called "pods" or beyond the workplace? We intentionally build community. We self-organize. When politicians and employers give us crumbs to live by, we feed each other instead. We build a new world from the ashes of the old. We, Pittsburgh Mutual Aid and our anti-capitalist comrades, pool our resources to take care of each other and the people we've never met for the sake of our collective survival and prosperity.



Ways to get involved



- ❖ We're always looking for volunteers to help with community needs! Sign up at: <https://www.covaid.co/pgh-volunteer>
- ❖ Join our team by emailing us at: contact@pittsburghmutualaid.com
- ❖ Check out our website: <https://www.pittsburghmutualaid.com/>
- ❖ Follow, get organized with, and donate to our local comrades:
 - Bukit Bail Fund
 - Pittsburgh Union of Regional Renters (PURR)
 - Steel City John Brown Gun Club
 - Pittsburgh Democratic Socialists of America
 - Steel City Food Not Bombs
 - Jailbreak PGH
 - Landlord Watchlist Project PA
 - Put People First PA
 - Pittsburgh Restaurant Workers Aid
 - True T PGH

Follow Us on Social Media!

- ❖ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pghmutualaid/>
- ❖ Instagram: @pghmutualaid
- ❖ Twitter: @AidPgh

Links to Donate

- ❖ Venmo: @pghmutualaid
- ❖ Cash App: \$pghmutualaid
- ❖ Grocery fund:
 - Venmo → @ratzon-food-distro



Concepts Covered In This Zine That May Be Unfamiliar

Anti-capitalist - Against the extractive model of capitalist systems, which exploits labour and people

Autonomous - Having agency; independent without outside control

Collective liberation - The idea that struggles against oppressive systems (racism, sexism, classism, ableism, LGBTQ+ persecution, etc.) are connected and valuable to all of us. Our struggles are interconnected globally, across borders and experiences.

Comrade - Someone who shares your anti-capitalist views and struggles alongside you

Gentrification - A process in which longtime residents are pushed out of a neighborhood over time by more affluent people and businesses

Hierarchy - A system in which groups or people are ranked one above another

Means testing - Subjecting someone to eligibility requirements before providing support. Often leads to hoops or deciding “worthiness”.

Predictive policing - The use of “crime” data by law enforcement to identify “risk of crime”; typically misleading or discriminatory conclusions

Private property - The right of an individual or company to exclude others’ use of something (such as a store, a railroad, etc.), rather than personal possessions

Redlining - A racist practice in which people are denied things like mortgages, insurance, loans, etc. based on their location (usually majority-Black and brown neighborhoods), even if they qualify and have good credit

Solidarity - Unity between common struggles, whether locally, nationally, or internationally; individuals and groups showing support for each other against a shared foe

State - An entity that has a monopoly on the use of force within a given territory and is usually widely viewed as legitimate by those subject to its rule

Surveillance state - An entity like the above, but which has seamlessly woven surveillance of the people who are subject to its rule into their everyday lives in order to control and oppress them

Working class - A class that does not own the means of production, is exploited by those who do, and produces wealth for capitalism

Zoning - The division of land into zones that can each only be used for certain purposes, often with many arbitrary rules that restrict what residents can do unnecessarily

Pittsburgh Mutual Aid: Who We Are

Who is Pittsburgh Mutual Aid?

Pittsburgh Mutual Aid is an autonomous group of community members that connects folks in the Pittsburgh area to provide support and care for one another.

This can look like a lot of different things, from lending a helping hand to a neighbor with transportation or a home repair, to getting groceries for someone, or just checking in on one another. We hope to help infuse the Pittsburgh community with care and commitment to one another’s well-being.

What do we believe?

We are explicitly anti-capitalist. Through mutual aid, we work towards creating the world we want to live in—one based in care, trust, and the beauty and strength of community. We are not associated with the state and are not a non-profit organization. In practice, this means we trust folks to know and communicate their own needs, have no “eligibility requirements,” and no hoops to jump through. Everyone deserves to have their needs met and to feel cared for, and we believe that collective, community care is key to working towards and ultimately accomplishing that.

We are all interdependent on one another, beautifully woven together in ways well beyond our comprehension. It is through this interdependence—both leaning on one another and holding each other up—that we are able to take steps towards the world that exists in our dreams.



MUTUAL
AID

This inherent interdependence also reflects another main component of mutual aid: Mutual aid is for everyone. We all have something to offer to our community, and we all need help, care, and tenderness from one another at the same time.

By coming together, we are able to work towards collective liberation—to acknowledge, understand, and internalize that none of us are free until all of us are free. We are one of many groups and individuals working towards and for this dream.

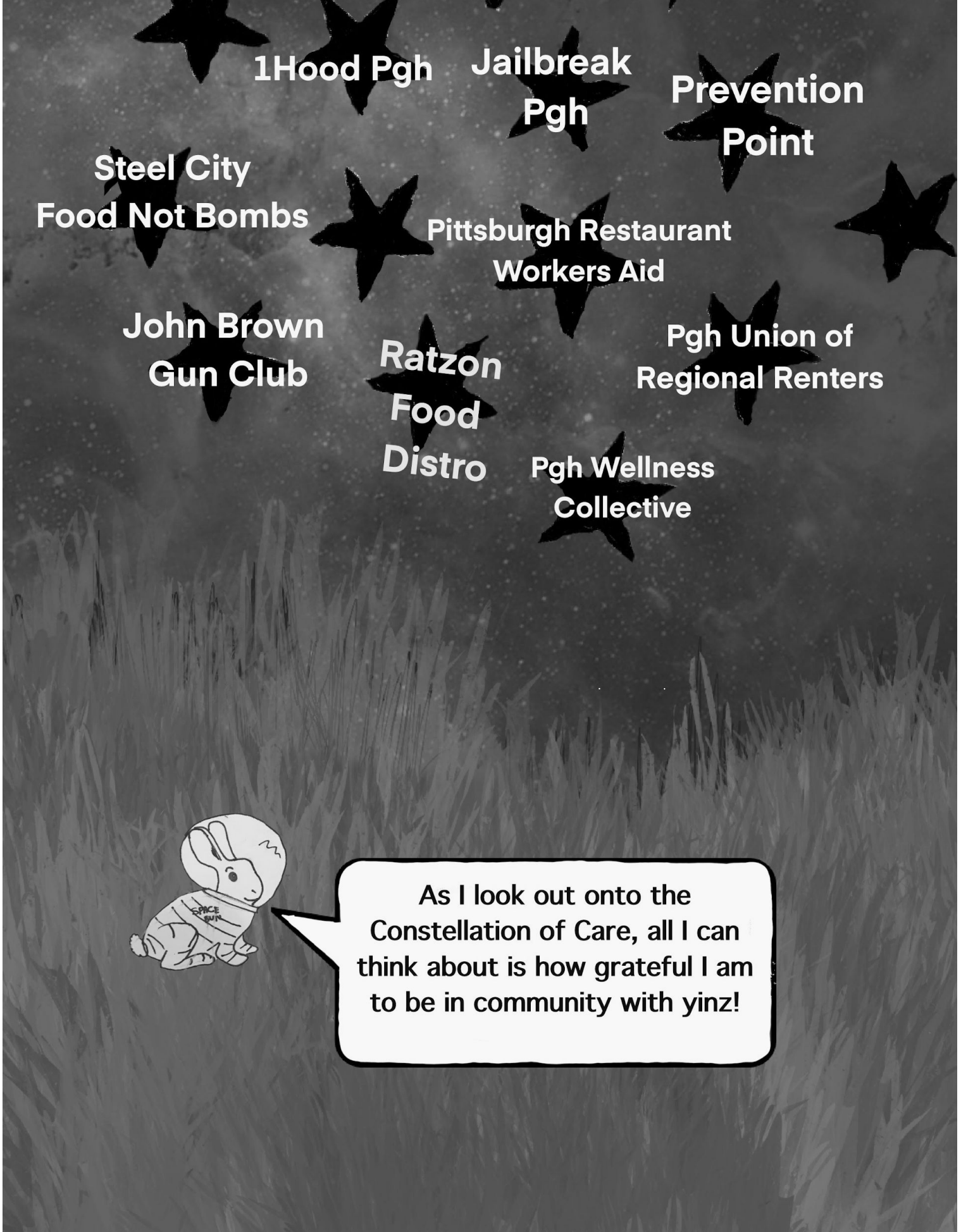
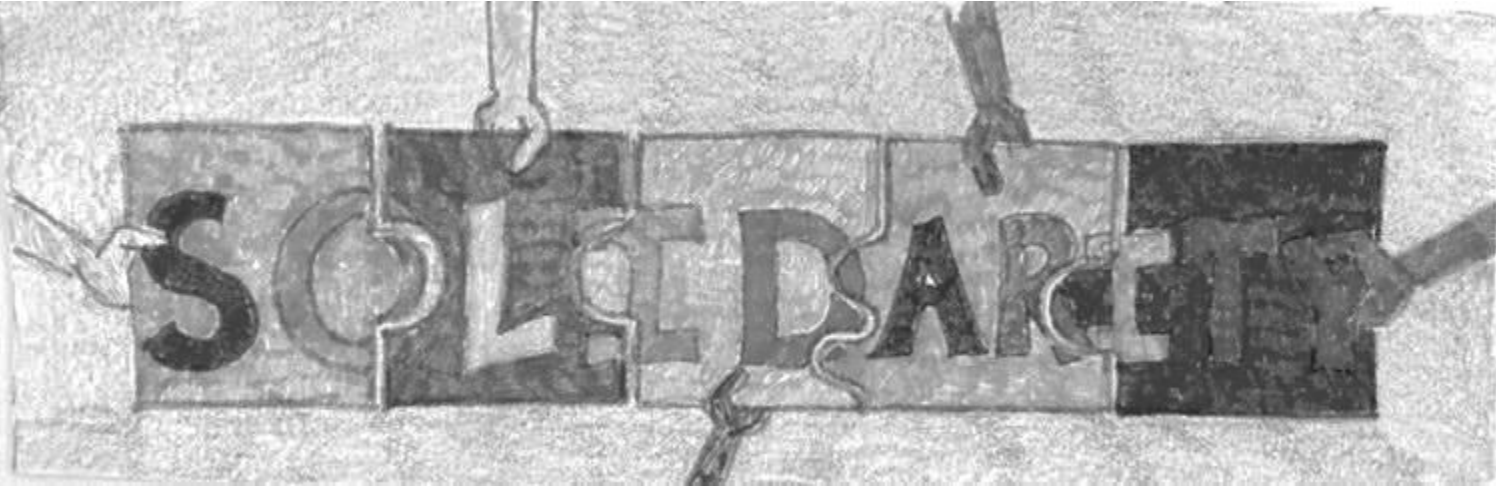
At its core, Pittsburgh Mutual Aid is for and by the Pittsburgh community, understanding our deep interdependence and interconnectedness.

As anti-capitalists, we reject the notions of scarcity and individualism. Instead, we believe in care, respect, and that we all simultaneously have needs and something to offer. This means listening to and trusting our neighbors and finding ways to provide support and meet each other where we are at.

What is mutual aid?

Mutual aid is a practice in which community members work to provide support for each other outside the bounds of capitalist systems. It depends on communal leadership, striving to meet the needs of all people in a sustainable way.

The concept of mutual aid is something that has existed around the world for centuries under many different names (or no name), but its main goal is always to work to create a safe and prosperous community where all may give what they can and find what they need.



Examples of Mutual Aid

We all already practice mutual aid on a regular basis in our day-to-day life. Here are some everyday examples of mutual aid:

- Helping a friend with homework
- Watching a neighbor's cat while they are in the hospital
- Bringing food to a co-worker who has nothing to eat
- Picking up medication for an unhoused person you know
- Helping an acquaintance move to a new house



Marigolds & tomatoes are excellent growing pals. Not only do they like similar growing conditions, but marigolds help the tomatoes grow! They repel pests at the root. How do we help each other grow?

An Analysis of Jan. 6. and Takeaways for our Movement

It takes a lot to change the system. Perhaps nothing in recent memory shows this as plainly as the January 6th storming of the Capitol building. The mob of white supremacists that stormed the Capitol building on Jan. 6 showed (to our great fortune) that a takeover of an ornate government building will not change much if the entire movement is just those few thousand people and the complicit police officers on the ground.

However, for us, as people who want to change the system for the benefit of the people and not a white supremacist president, this should show us something very important. There is no shortcut to revolution.

Revolution must be built, organized, and connected on many levels with a long-term mindset. Everyone from the semi-passive supporter to the leaders must be engaged, invested, and organized. In order to create this engagement, there must be real commitment and caring as the basis of the movement. In this way, we have an advantage over the stormers of the Capitol: we center solidarity as a virtue. We believe in the power of community, togetherness, and centrality of solving human problems.

When we build our revolution, it cannot exist at the level of the symbolic alone. It must be woven in with our community and the collective struggle of the masses against the power and exploitation of the capitalist classes. By building a strong, interconnected working class movement based around our common empathy and desire to provide for human needs, we may be able to accomplish much more and for the better.

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, it has been made clear how little our government cares about us and our needs. They have left us to die without healthcare, housing, food, or income, even as Wall Street profits soar. At Pittsburgh Mutual Aid, we have been organizing to provision for the needs of our community despite the uncaring nature of the government that rules us. The provision of human needs in a capitalist system isn't easy and we don't always succeed, but it builds up our community to deal with the ravages of capitalism.

The stormers of the Capitol building thankfully did not change the system to their ends. They found the building empty of the power they had imagined. We have better values and a better vision than them, of course. But in order to be more successful in our goal of changing the system to meet human needs, we must do the hard work of organizing and building for a better, freer, and non-capitalist world.

MAKE THE WALLS OF CAPITALISM MORE POROUS
SO THAT WE MAY CULTIVATE OUR GARDEN
TOGETHER

GENTRIFICATION

JEFF
BEZOS

ZUCKERBERG

FIXED
HIERARCHY

SURVEILLANCE
STATE

ZONING

PRIVATE
PROPERTY

RED-
LINING

MEANS-
TESTING

LAND-
LORDS

BORDERS

RACISM

PREDICTIVE
POLICING

CORPORATE
GREED

ILLUSION
OF FREEDOM

\$7.25
MINIMUM
WAGE

MASS
INCARCERATION

COPS

PROFIT
OVER
PEOPLE

EVICTIONS

"Pull yourself
up by your
bootstraps"

PRIVATE
HEALTH
INSURANCE

INCOME
INEQUALITY

SCHOOL TO
PRISON
PIPELINE

I.C.E.

WEAPONS MANUFACTURE

Water! Yes!

Mmm water

slurp!